THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The periodicity of publication of Telephone directories is once a year.

(c) New Telephone Drectories are to be distributed soon after the receipt of printed directories in adequate numbers.

(d) The Telephone Directory of Aurangabad was last printed in February 1991. There was no delay in the distributton of directories as 83% of the subscribers collected the new directories within one month.

(e) Does not arise.

Abolition of Customs Duty on Import of Amateur Radio Equipment

1395. Dr. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUCATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Finance Ministry to reduce the Customs Duty on import of Amateur Radio Equipment ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereon ; and

(c) by when the orders are likely to be issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Finance have recently informed of their inability to agree to any further reduction of customs duty on import of Amateur Radio Equipment.

Review of Indian Economy by Assocham

@ 1396. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the mid year review of Indian economy by ASSOCHAM in which it was stated that populist schemes are weakening the economic stabilisation ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) On the occasion of the Independence Day, the 15th August, 1993 the Prime Minister Announced three new schemes namely Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the Educated Unemployed Youths and Assured Employment for Rural poors in the revamped PDS Blocks. The objective of the first scheme is to promote self-reliance and achieve a measure of economic independence among Women ; the second scheme aims to provide employment to about 10 lakh educated unemployed urban youths in micro-enterprises and the objective of the last scheme is to provide about 100 days of assured casual manual labour employment during the lean agricultural season to all persons above 18 years of age and below 60 years in rural area for two persons per family of the rural poor who are needy and want work.

The economic reforms are aimed at improving the living standards of all of our people and not just the better-off sections.

Externally aided central sector projects in the country

@@ 1397. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the externally aided central sector projects in the country whose execution have been unsatisfactory ;

(b) what is the period for which these projects have been delayed stating the reasons for delay in their implementation ;

(c) what is the estimated cost escalation in each of the projects ; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to implement the projects to avoid further cost escalation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) Extremally aided Central projects in the country :

@ Previously Unstarred Questions 384 Transferred from 6th December, 1993.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 386 Transferred from 6th December, 1993.